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## **Kala and Her Cub: A Honey of a Morning**

The last of the snow had melted weeks ago. Kala, the black bear, knew it was time to return to the high mountains. She needed to show her young cub, Bo Bo, where to find white pine bark, nuts, sweet berries, and honey. He had to learn how to dig up the tender tree roots with his claws.

It would be a long, tiring journey from the meadow to the mountains. They would be leaving the only home her cub had known. Early that morning, Kala lumbered out of her den, and her furry baby stumbled close behind. First, she would find the morning food. Then, mother and son would start their climb, following the scent of the pines.

Kala found some young plants and showed the cub how to dig into the soft dirt to reach the juicy roots. Bo Bo copied his mother, scooping dirt aside and munching on the sweet grass and sucking on the tender roots. He was learning. After breakfast, it was time to move on.

Soon, they came to a stream with a blanket of trees above it. Kala thought the stream would make a perfect trail to follow up the hill. At first, Bo Bo bounced up the trail ahead of his mother, eager to explore every new bend in the stream. As the day wore on, the young bear began feeling tired. Now and then, Bo Bo turned his head and looked back as if to ask, "When are we going to turn around? When do we get to go home?" Kala pushed him roughly once or twice with her nose when he stopped. There was no time to pause along the way.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3</b> <b>LA.E.2.2.1 Cause/Effect Form C</b></p>
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When night came, the two black bears found a huge old oak tree they could snuggle beneath. Kala and the cub were ready for a rest.

“Garrump!” came a cry of pain from Bo Bo the next morning. Kala awoke with a start. She had slept too long, and her cub was in trouble.

Bo Bo was high in the branches of an old dead tree. He waved his paws at his face, his ears, but most of all, his nose. Bees buzzed all around him! Another scream came as he fell to the ground. Bo Bo rolled about in the grass; for some reason, his mother ran to the stream.

Just as Kala hoped, her baby quickly followed her. She stuck her nose into the soft mud beside the stream. Again, as she hoped, Bo Bo did the same thing. Then, mother and son hurried back to the old tree for a yummy treat. The bees did not like having two bears feasting on their honey, but their stings could not harm two noses caked with mud.

That is how Kala’s cub, Bo Bo, had his first adventure. And for both of them, breakfast that morning was oh, so sweet.

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**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Read the passage “Kala and Her Cub: A Honey of a Morning”, then circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. On their journey, why does Kala push Bo Bo with her nose?
  - A. She wants Bo Bo to keep moving along the trail.
  - B. She thinks Bo Bo should rest beneath the oak tree.
  - C. She is annoyed that Bo Bo keeps blocking her way.
  - D. She is getting tired and wants Bo Bo to turn around.
  
2. What made the bee stings less harmful to Bo Bo?
  - A. He soaked in the stream.
  - B. He caked his nose with mud.
  - C. He rolled around in the grass.
  - D. He waved his paws at his nose.
  
3. What happened to let Kala know that it was time to return to the mountains?
  - A. The last of the snow had melted.
  - B. Kala heard the bees start to buzz in the trees.
  - C. Kala needed to follow the scent of the pines.
  - D. The bears had eaten all of the food in the meadow.
  
4. What made Bo Bo scream the first time?
  - A. He fell out of a tree.
  - B. Kala had slept too long.
  - C. Bees were stinging him.
  - D. He was too high up in the tree.

**Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3**  
**LA.E.2.2.1 Cause/Effect Form C**

5. Bo Bo copies his mother because

- A. he is tired.
- B. he is hungry.
- C. he is playing.
- D. he is learning.

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**Answer Key – Kala and Her Cub**

LA.E.2.2.1: The student identifies cause-and-effect relationships, stated or strongly implied, in literary text or informational text.

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